

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-11, 13-25 and 27-28 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action indicated that claims 2-14 and 16-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable (and now canceled) claims 12 and 26. Claims 6-7 and 20-21 were also rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 13-14 are allowable by virtue of being dependent directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1. Claims 16-19, 22-25 and 27-28 are allowable by virtue of being dependent directly or indirectly from allowable claim 15.

Accordingly, all pending claims are now allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nirmalan et al (U.S. '743). As discussed above, claims 1 and 15 as amended are allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

SUMNER et al.
Application No. 10/663,991
May 27, 2005

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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